



City of San Marcos

Meeting Minutes City Council

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

This meeting was held using conferencing software due to Covide-19 rules.

I. Call To Order

With a quorum present, the work session meeting of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson at 3:05 p.m. Tuesday, October 7, 2020. The meeting was held virtually.

II. Roll Call

Council Member Marquez arrived after roll call at 3:10 p.m.

Present: 7 - Council Member Melissa Derrick, Mayor Jane Hughson, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Mihalkanin, Council Member Joca Marquez, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Mark Rockeymoore, Council Member Maxfield Baker and Council Member Saul Gonzales

PRESENTATIONS

1. Receive an update from City Manager Bert Lumbreras regarding the progress of the negotiations of an Interlocal Agreement with Hays County that provides for the repair and rehabilitation of Cape's Dam and Mill Race on the San Marcos River, and provide direction to the City Manager.

Bert Lumbreras, City Manager provided a brief update regarding the progress of negotiations with Hays County to develop an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) regarding Cape's Dam.

Mr. Lumbreras provided a timeline of the negotiations, including the following:

- **August 18, City Council formally adopted Resolution 2020-177R directing the City Manager to begin negotiating an Interlocal Agreement with Hays County that provides for the repair and rehabilitation of Cape's Dam and the mill race.**
- **August 24, City staff held a meeting to discuss next steps with Hays County General Counsel Mark Kennedy, and Kate Johnson from the Hays County Historical Commission. The County stated that some preliminary assessments will need to be completed before an Interlocal Agreement can be drafted.**

- September 29, The city received an update from Mr. Kennedy that the County has been having discussions regarding permitting and doing their due diligence to develop a plan for moving forward. Mr. Lumbreras mentioned that Mr. Kennedy stated that even though a draft Interlocal agreement is not ready for Council to review at this time, that does not mean Hays County lacks interest in moving forward, as they certainly do.
- Next steps, a meeting between City Staff and Hays County has been scheduled during the week of October 12 to further discuss moving forward.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rockey Moore asked if a timetable was provided by the County. Mr. Lumbreras stated that the upcoming scheduled meeting will provide more information since the County does not have a draft of the Interlocal agreement yet. We will know more after that meeting. The agenda has not been finalized yet.

Council Member Baker inquired about advocates for the environmental oversight (scientists) and if they would be involved in the initial discussion regarding the negotiations of this agreement. Mr. Lumbreras stated this was to include the City and County along with Historical Commission since they have had an interest in this project. There was no direction by council to add any others.

Mr. Lumbreras noted that during discussion with council on August 18th and the adoption of the resolution to begin negotiations, the intent was to move forward with negotiations with the County. Council Member Baker expressed concerns on the environmental component and would like to see this included on the onset.

Mayor Hughson stated once the agreement is in the draft form, it will come before Council and environmental will be addressed at some point. Mr. Lumbreras stated that Council had concerns and issues on the environmental, endangered species, historical aspect, cultural, safety and other issues. This is the basis of the next discussion. Mr. Lumbreras stated the environmental aspect would be required as we move forward and the County will place this into the proposal.

Council held a brief discussion regarding the need to add a scientist or someone with experience in the environmental aspect of this project. Mr. Lumbreras stated it may be premature to have a scientist on board at this point in the process, but the proposal from the County will address environmental concerns, permitting, endangered species, safety concerns and will include other parties that will be involved as the project moves forward.

Consensus is to allow the project to move forward as proposed with all the issues previously identified by Council and a draft ILA will be brought before Council to allow for further input regarding all parties that will be involved. The ILA must go through the Commissioner's Court also.

- 2. Receive a presentation by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on the IH-35 Mobility Project from State Highway 123 to Posey Road, and hold discussion.**

Mr. Lumbreras provided a brief introduction regarding the Interstate 35 improvements project. Mr. Lumbreras stated the update is provided by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) that will include the full extent of the Mobility35 Program which includes projects in Hays, Travis and Williamson Counties.

Susan Fraser, Mobility35 Program Manager, began the presentation regarding the Mobility35 program and stated this is a region wide effort to address safety, congestion and mobility within the 79 miles of I-35 through the counties of Williamson, Travis, and Hays. Ms. Fraser mentioned there are 30+ projects in the Mobility35 Program totaling \$8 billion in construction costs for active or future projects and 20+ contracts totaling \$90 million in environmental and design. The I-35 Capital Express project is between SH 45 North and SH 45 Southeast. It will be non-tolled with HOV managed lanes. There are three projects for a total cost of \$5.6 billion. There are 6 projects in Hays County, 1 project in schematic/environmental phase, 2 projects in PS&E (detailed design phase) phase, 3 project in letting/construction.

Tony Estes, TxDOT Schematic Task Manager, outlined some of the projects TxDOT is working on, one which includes, the installation of high mast illumination lighting on IH-35 from Yarrington Road to SH 80. Another project will Construct a northbound exit ramp to River Ridge Parkway, relocate existing northbound entrance ramp south of River Ridge Parkway, and reconstruct the northbound frontage road. Mr. Estes next presented the proposed improvements to IH-35 at SH123, which include the reconstruction of the main lanes and bridge over SH 123, reverse and realign entrance/exit ramps, reconstruct portions of the frontage road, and rebuild and widen frontage road bridges.

Mr. Estes presented the proposed improvements to IH-35 at Posey Road, which include reconstruction and reconfiguration of the Posey Road bridge, addition of U-turn lanes in both directions at Posey Road, reversal of six entrance/exit ramps, and convert frontage roads to one-way.

Mr. Estes presented the proposed improvements to IH-35 from SH 123 to Posey Road, which include reconstruction of main lanes and frontage roads, add capacity and shift the northbound and southbound I-35 frontage roads, add extended entrance/exit lanes along the I-35 main lanes and frontage roads, reverse entrance/exit ramps, improve the I-35 intersections at Wonder World Drive, McCarty Lane and Centerpoint Road, and improved bicycle and pedestrian paths. Drainage in the area will be improved.

Council Member Baker asked about the light project and if it is compatible with the Dark Sky status that City is seeking. Ms. Fraser stated that the high illumination is part of the safety program to make it clearer for drivers. Council Member Baker inquired about the safety components. Ms. Fraser stated they have a number of research documents and will provide to Council. Council Member Baker asked if the current lights are inadequate? Ms. Fraser stated that the new lights meet new current standards. Laurie Moyer, Director of Engineering and CIP, stated that Hwy 123 and SH 80 will use the new lighting as well and this provides a more consistent lighting. Ms. Moyer also stated that LED lighting will be used and this is compatible with Dark Sky initiative.

Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin inquired about the location of the road underneath the interstate that currently allows for easier access to citizens in Blanco Gardens. He addressed concerns of the removal of this roadway given the construction on River Road and he said that small road along the frontage road is important to the citizens. Ms. Moyer stated the problem is due to improvement of the frontage roads, and to get up to federal highway standards, they have to be raised 6 feet, therefore, that connection cannot be made. Staff is working with TxDOT and a shared use path is being designed to provide a trail for pedestrians and bicyclist. Staff is aware of the concerns during construction, and unfortunately TxDOT must comply with these standards. Ms. Moyer stated that they are working closely with TxDOT as the project begins. Mayor Pro Tem asked staff to share the schematics of the project configuration. Ms. Moyer will provide this to Council.

Mayor Hughson asked if we are ready for the additional traffic on Hwy 80 due to the removal of that short cut used by many who live in the nearby neighborhood. Ms. Moyer stated there are capacity improvements that will address this at SH 123 in an effort to limit traffic on Hwy 80.

Council Member Derrick asked if there are plans to install traffic lights at SH 123 and Hwy 80? Mr. Estes stated there are future plans for SH 123 but no

additional plans for Hwy 80 at this time.

Council Member Derrick asked if TxDOT will follow the City's policy on MS4 regarding drainage. Ms. Moyer stated that they have an agreement to meet our requirements.

Council Member Baker inquired about a high occupancy vehicle lane and if there is discussion about this in a way to address environment and sustainability concerns. Ms. Fraser stated they are not planning a high occupancy vehicle lane at this time, but it may be warranted in the future. However, the Mobility 35 program is creating lanes for pedestrians and bicycles.

Mayor Hughson asked about the additional lane proposed within the schematics presented this evening. Mr. Estes stated this is actually an acceleration lane and not an additional lane. Mayor Hughson inquired when does this happen from SH123 North through San Marcos. Mr. Estes stated ramps are being reconstructed with plans to include these acceleration lanes. Mayor Hughson would like to know where to direct questions from citizens/businesses regarding ramps and where they are located. The main web page for a project doesn't specify the ramps and the schematics are too detailed. Could TxDOT provide a simple graphic so all will be able to tell where the ramps are going to be located? Ms. Fraser stated they provide user friendly exhibits at their open houses and they will provide to council.

Mayor Hughson asked if CM Allen would get a ramp to facilitate a main entrance into town. Ms. Moyer stated the ramp exit for SH 123 will be near where the CM Allen exit is now and it will facilitate both SH 123 and CM Allen. Ms. Moyer will provide additional information.

Council expressed their appreciation for the information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 3. Executive Session in accordance with the following Government Codes:
(A) Section § 551.087 - Economic Development: to receive a staff briefing and deliberate regarding economic incentives for Project Spec and Project Lord of the Rings.**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rockeymoore, seconded by Council Member Derrick, to enter into Executive Session at 4:06 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Council Member Derrick, Mayor Hughson, Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin, Council Member Marquez, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rockeymoore, Council Member Baker and Council Member Gonzales

Against: 0

III. Adjournment.

Mayor Hughson stated Executive Session concluded at 5:21 p.m.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rockeymoore, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin, to adjourn the work session at 5:23 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7, 2020. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 4 - Mayor Hughson, Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rockeymoore and Council Member Baker

Against: 0

Absent: 3 - Council Member Derrick, Council Member Marquez and Council Member Gonzales

Tammy K. Cook, Interim City Clerk

Jane Hughson, Mayor